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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—
Fair and warmer.

OREGON'S FIRST DUTY.

Oregon's first and greatest duty is to strive for the completion of the improvement of the Columbia river bar.

This declaration is made without derogation of any other vital project pending or desired, in the state. It is made upon the conclusive findings of Colonel W. S. Roessler, the engineer in charge of the tremendous and costly undertaking, which has been in progress far too long, with results far too meagre, considering the illimitable importance of the work to the commerce of the northwest and must, in justice to the government and the people affected, be brought to a successful finish.

It is the paramount thing of the hour. And instead of dividing the governmental appropriations into minor and inoperative sums, that are but frittered away, in partial successes or pronounced failures, what is coming to the state from the national treasury should come in a lump sum and for this sole and immense purpose.

When the work is done and the giant water-way of the northwest is utterly clear and free to deep blue water, the next and wholly sequent thing to do is to open the Columbia river to its last stage of availability.

Colonel Roessler is unequivocally, absolutely, committed to the principle here stated and will so report to his department at Washington. He is an engineer, charged with one of the masterpieces of his craft, and his professional acumen has evolved the dictum that must emanate from a man of pride and honor, and in the broad light of civic value and commercial potency, his dictum will be credited at the capital and endorsed by every agency in the state, irrespective of local ambitions and popular desires; anything less than this means open stultification of the professional claims of an able engineer, the deliberate abandonment of an uncompleted venture that has already cost many millions of dollars, and the infinite reproach inseparable from such unwisdom.

DETECTIVE ABILITY.

A romantic story comes from New York. It goes to show that some detectives have ability. William E. Murphy is the hero. He has won an heiress and will be married today to Miss Mary Donohue, daughter of a wealthy contractor of Cleveland, Ohio. At present and for some time past Mr. Murphy has been stationed at the Corporation Counsel's office. Just why a first class detective is needed there is not known, but probably for the reason that a man with a dark lantern is necessary to find out dark lantern methods. Ten years ago Mr. Murphy became a policeman when President Roosevelt, then police commissioner, issued a call for one thousand additional patrolmen. He was made an officer at once, assigned to a beat, and was gradually advanced, not on account of his shape, though one of the finest, but for real ability, and became a plain clothes man. Assigned to the Corporation Counsel's office he mingled with

Defects In the Administration of the Criminal Law

By HENRY D. BROWN, Retired Justice of the United States Supreme Court



THE criminal laws throughout the United States are more and more coming to be for the benefit of the criminal instead of for the PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC. The conviction of the criminal by a jury trial is really only the beginning of the effort to prosecute him. The criminal courts of the country are hedged in with restrictions, all of which are designed to give the convicted man some LOOPHOLE OF ESCAPE, and none of which is intended to bring him to speedy punishment for his crime.

Undoubtedly some of the judges are incompetent, but the greatest trouble probably lies in the indulgence of TECHNICALITIES that characterizes the courts. More thought is given to technicalities that will allow the convicted man to escape punishment than to meting out justice when he is guilty.

The delay in bringing criminals to justice and the escape of many who actually are guilty is responsible for that lack of confidence in the law which finds its manifestation IN LYNCHING. Lynch law is the natural result of the failure of the courts to perform their natural functions. It is a deplorable fact that lynchings seem to be on the increase, but it is easy to trace them to their source.

If it was assured to the public that a criminal was sure of conviction, lynchings would be few. That is, if there always had been the confidence in the criminal law that there ought to be, the custom of lynching would not have grown to the proportions it has assumed. It has gone so far now that I doubt the possibility of ERADICATING this deplorable evil.

One who has watched day by day the practical administration of justice in an English court cannot but be struck by the celerity, accuracy and disregard of mere technicalities with which business is transacted. One is irresistibly impelled to ask himself why it is that with the reputation of Americans for doing everything from the building of bridges over the Nile or battleships for Russia and Japan to harvesting, reaping, plowing and even making butter by machinery, faster than other people, a court in conservative old England will dispose of a half dozen jury cases in the time that would be required here IN DISPATCHING ONE.

The cause is not far to seek. It lies in the close confinement of counsel to the question at issue and the prompt interposition of the court TO PREVENT DELAY. The trial is conducted by men trained for that special purpose, whose interest it is to expedite and not to prolong them.

No time is wasted in immaterial matters. Objections to testimony are discouraged, rarely argued, and ALMOST NEVER made the subject of exception.

THE TESTIMONY IS CONFINED TO THE EXACT POINT AT ISSUE. MERE ORATORY IS AT A DISCOUNT. NEW TRIALS ARE RARELY GRANTED.

A criminal trial especially is a serious business, since in case of a verdict of guilty it is all up with the defendant, and nothing can save him from punishment but a pardon from the crown. The result is that homicides are infrequent, and OFFENDERS RARELY ESCAPE PUNISHMENT for their crimes.

the lawyers, and, being ambitious, studied law and has been admitted to the bar, at the head of a large class. While studying law he became acquainted with Miss Donohue, who, though an heiress, is a level-headed girl, and Billy became the man for her. He will begin the practice of law at once. The father of the bride has presented his daughter with a handsome house, and no young couple will begin life under more favorable circumstances. That Murphy is a real detective is shown by his ability to detect just the right sort of a girl for a wife.

STRANGE STORY.

The strange story is told by the officers of the ocean liner Carpathia, just returned from a voyage to Italy, of a man who attempted suicide by leaping from her deck, 200 miles from land, existing for eight hours in the water by means of a life buoy and being rescued by another ship bound for the same port. It probably wouldn't be much consolation to the would-be suicide, Sidler, should his acquaintances twist him with the old proverb, "They that are born to be hanged will never be drowned," and he will more likely prefer to attribute the fact that he is still living to the intervention of divine providence. Evidently the life preserver thrown to him and which, though desiring to die, he yet instinctively grasped and clung to till rescued, was not of the Valencia pattern, or "providence" would have had a poor show as an interposer.

HAD IT BADLY.

A boy of 17, in Manhattan, commits suicide because a girl of 14 does not "reciprocate his love," on account of a difference in religious belief! On what stuff is the rising generation fed when mere boys can become possessed of such unwholesome notions? The boy was young yet, and of an age when only healthy thoughts are supposed to govern one's conduct; life was before him, and the world full of nice girls, including millions of his own faith. Strangest of all, the boy was a Jew, and that race is notably one of the

strongest in condemnation of self-slaughter.

A Poem for Today

BEAUTY

By John Keats



JOHN KEATS was born in London Oct. 30, 1795, and died in Rome, Feb. 23, 1821. Keats has been well called "the popular hero of English literature." The beauty of his verse, his intimate association with Shelley and Hunt and his untimely death all endear him to the reading public. Among the best of his verse are the "Ode to a Grecian Urn," "Ode to a Nightingale," "Lamia," "The Eve of St. Agnes" and "Endymion." The extract given below is from the last named.

A THING of beauty is a joy forever.
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness, but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing.
Therefore on every morrow are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'erdarkened ways
Made for our searching—yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in, and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the midforest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms.
And such, too, is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read—
An endless fountain of immortal drink
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.
Nor do we merely feel these essences
For one short hour: No; even as the trees
That whisper round a temple become soon
Dear as the temple's self, so does the moon,
The passion poesy, glories infinite,
Haunt us till they become a cheering light
Unto our souls and bound to us so fast
That, whether there be shine or gloom o'ercrest,
They always must be with us, or we die.

Fall's Awakening Styles IN MILLINERY

MODES CORRECT

PRICES CORRECT

"We've been all around, and yours are the prettiest hats of all," and "so reasonable," are common remarks heard in our display room.

Paris and New York Patterns

PERSONALLY SELECTED WHILE IN EASTERN MARKETS. EXQUISITE CREATIONS SOME OF THE BEST DESIGNERS, MAKING IN ALL THE LARGEST AND BEST COLLECTION OF MODERATE PRICED HEADGEAR EVER SHOWN IN THE CITY OF ASTORIA. THE NOBBY HOOB HAT FOR EITHER STREET OR DRESS WEAR, BEAUTIFULLY TRIMMED IN SILK VELVET, WINGS AND SILK ROSES, \$3.50 TO \$5.00

THE TOURIST HAT MADE OF SILK VELVET TRIMMED IN HEAVY TAFFETA RIBBON, HANDSOME BUCKLES, OSTRICH PLUMES OR BEAUTIFUL COQUE FEATHERS, \$6.00 TO \$10.00.

THE HIGH CROWN SILK PLUSH VESTA TILLY, TRIMMED WITH REAL OSTRICH PLUMES AND VELVET FOLIAGE AND ROSES, A SWELL DRESS HAT, \$8.00 TO \$12.00.

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MRS. GEORGIE PENNINGTON

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TIME TO BE POLITE.

Copenhagen, Denmark, is a city of canals and cleanliness—a land of pure delight, free from beggars, organ grinders and stray dogs. The inhabitants thereof are born courteous and seem never to have recovered from the habit.

When a passenger boards a car in Copenhagen, he exchanges greetings with the conductor. A gentleman on leaving the car usually lifts his hat in acknowledgement of a salute from that official. When a fare is paid the conductor drops it into his cash box, thanks the passenger and gives him a little paper receipt.

He offers change with a preliminary "Be so good," and the passenger accepts with thanks. If, in addition, transfers are required, complimentary exchanges go on indefinitely. Yet there is always time enough in Copenhagen.—Caroline Domett in Four Track News.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

We have noticed that any reporter can take his typewriter and show

large profits in farming.—Topeka Capital.

English experts who usually are solemn over the fact that an American crew is all in when beaten, now complain that Harvard was not tired at all.

We warned Stoesel not to return to Russia. We warned the czar to run. Now, if he insists on remaining and losing out he can't blame us.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A man in Camden, N. J., got a postal card which had been mailed to him in that city twenty-five years before. The postal service may be slow in New Jersey, but just think how sure it is.—New York Press.

A farmer must not touch a deer, no matter how much it may be trampling and devouring his crops. He may, however, drive it out of his fields if he can do so without hurting its feelings.—Boston Transcript.

Boston does not seem to realize that in making slighting remarks about the leading industries of other American cities, she is calling attention to her two ball teams, concerning which the less said the better for Boston.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

ARE YOU A BON VIVANT?

The pith of life, after all, is a good feed. The good things of this life are not as a rule easily found, so that it is a pleasure to find so close at hand a first-class up-to-date establishment, where one gets those good things at every meal, like the Palace Restaurant, on Commercial street. The home of the bon vivant.



Approved by Pure Food Commissioners. Two packages, 25 cents at all grocers. If your grocer hasn't it, send his name and \$50. to us and two packages and our illustrated recipe book will be mailed you. The Genesee Pure Food Co., Le Roy, N. Y.

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Modern Solvent for Removing Paint and Varnish

THIS IS A PERFECT REMOVER. HAS NO BAD ODER
WILL NOT DISCOLOR "ANY" WOOD; CONTAINS NO
CHEMICALS AND WILL NOT INJURE THE HANDS.

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A NON-ABSORBENT, SANITARY COMPOSITION FOR FILLING FLOOR
CRACKS, ETC.

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Capital \$100,000